

CLAIMS:

1. On-growth inhibiting agent, for the inhibition and/or prevention of on-growth of biological organisms on objects or living beings, said agent comprising
 5 at least one cyclotide, and a suitable carrier medium.

2. Agent according to claim 1, said cyclotide(s) having the general formula

10 $C[X_1 \dots X_a] \ C[X^I_1 \dots X^I_b] \ C[X^{II}_1 \dots X^{II}_c] \ C[X^{III}_1 \dots X^{III}_d] \ C[X^{IV}_1 \dots X^{IV}_e] \ C[X^{V}_1 \dots X^{V}_f]$

wherein

C is cysteine;

15 each of $[X_1 \dots X_a]$, $[X^I_1 \dots X^I_b]$, $[X^{II}_1 \dots X^{II}_c]$, $[X^{III}_1 \dots X^{III}_d]$, $[X^{IV}_1 \dots X^{IV}_e]$, and $[X^V_1 \dots X^V_f]$ represents one or more amino acid residues wherein each one or more amino acid residues within or between the sequence residues may be the same or different; and wherein

20 a, b, c, d, e and f represent the number of amino acid residues in each respective sequence and each of a to f may be the same or different and range from 1 to about 20;

or an analogue of said sequence.

25 3. Agent according to claim 1, wherein each of a to f ranges from 1 to about 10.

4. Agent according to claim 1, wherein a, b, c, d, e and f represent the number of amino acid residues in each respective sequence and wherein a is
 30 from about 3 to about 6, b is from about 3 to about 5, c is from about 2 to about 7, d is about 1 to about 3, e is about 3 to about 6, and f is from about 4 to about 9.

5. Agent according to claim 1, wherein a, b, c, d, e and f represent the number of amino acid residues in each respective sequence and wherein a is about 3, b is about 4, c is from about 4 to about 7, d is about 1, e is about 4 or 5, and f is from about 4 to about 7.

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6. Agent according to claim 1, wherein a, b, c, d, e and f represent the number of amino acid residues in each respective sequence and wherein a is about 6, b is about 4, c is 3, d is about 1, e is about 5, and f is about 8.

10 7. Agent according to claim 1, comprising any of the following cyclotides alone or in combination: vico A, vico B, hypa A, cycloviolacin O1, cyclopsychotride A, cycloviolacin O7, circulin D, circulin E, cycloviolin C, cycloviolacin O3, cycloviolacin O9, cycloviolacin O10, cycloviolacin H1, circulin C, cycloviolin A, cycloviolin D, circulin F, circulin A, circulin B, cycloviolacin O2, cycloviolacin O4, cycloviolacin O6, cycloviolacin O11, cycloviolacin O8, cycloviolacin O5, kalata B5, cycloviolin B, varv A, kalata S, kalata B1, kalata B4, varv E, cycloviolacin O12, varv D, varv C, varv B, varv G, varv H, kalata B2, kalata B3, kalata B6, varv F, kalata B7.

20 8. Agent according to claim 1, wherein the cyclotide is cycloviolacin O2.

9. A plant extract, comprising a fraction from an extraction process containing a mixture of cyclotides.

25 10. A plant extract as claimed in claim 9, obtained from Sweet Violet.

11. A method of preventing on-growth of biological organisms on objects or living beings, comprising applying an agent as claimed in claim 1 or an extract as claimed in claim 9 on a surface of said object or living being.

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12. A product, protected from on-growth of biological organisms by the application of an agent as claimed in claim 1 or an extract as claimed in claim 10 on a surface thereof.